

Doshisha University  
Graduate School of Global Studies  
Open Seminar

# Authoritarianism in Post-modernity

The deaf state vs buzzing social media  
in Ethiopia

**Eloi Ficquet**

École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris

This lecture will present some aspects of the political situation in Ethiopia today, to put in perspective the current wave of protests in this country, the second most populated in Africa. By undertaking important infrastructural transformations during the last decade, the ruling party conducted an ambitious development policy with the promise of sharing the gains of growth across the population. Implemented under the leadership of Prime minister Meles Zenawi (who died in 2012 at the age of 57), the state-led development process could not be hampered by any kind of criticism or resistance. The priority for economic reforms strengthened the authoritarian character of the leadership. Opposition groups have been expelled from the national political stage. Many of their members have been relocated in the worldwide Ethiopian diaspora, particularly in Northern America, from where they use communication technologies and social media to criticize and destabilize the government, not being able so far to form a viable alternative. We will wonder if the ongoing showdown can lead to a reversal, or at least transformations, in the balance of power.



Eloi Ficquet is currently affiliated with the Center of Religious Studies (Césor) at the School for Advanced Studies in Social Science (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales : EHESS) in Paris.

Among his recent publications, *Understanding Contemporary Ethiopia : Monarchy, Revolution and the Legacy of Meles Zenawi*, edited with Gérard Prunier, Hurst Publishers, London, 2014.

Date : **November 1** (Tuesday)

**16:40-18:10**

Room : Shikokan **SK214**

No  
reservation  
required

同志社大学グローバル・スタディーズ研究科

tel. 075-251-3930

E-mail: [ji-gs@mail.doshisha.ac.jp](mailto:ji-gs@mail.doshisha.ac.jp)